

IG/LBK/drm

X: Cattrall, H. Richard P.

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Talk to the Veterans of Strategic Services,
Gotham Hotel, New York City, 2000,
24 March 1960

1. I spoke to approximately 100-plus members of the VSS organization on the subject of "Central Intelligence and the National Security." In effect I traced the evolution from the Office of Strategic Services to the present Central Intelligence Agency, dealing almost entirely with the processing of information, the National Estimates and the structure and operations of the intelligence community. The only allusion to the fact that we might even have an organization overseas was simply to state that what goes on abroad was beyond the realm of public discussion. The talk was apparently well received and a very large number of those present came up to speak to me afterwards to say that they were reassured that the work which had been started in World War II had not been lost. Several also mentioned that they wished the VSS could be constituted into a reserve organization for CIA.

2. In discussion with William Casey, the current President of VSS, I told him that we would produce four speakers next year to deal with broad intelligence subjects because we were interested in keeping the organization going and in keeping them generally informed of matters in the intelligence field. He was most appreciative of our interest in the organization.

3. Among those present was Miss Sylvia Press, who presented me with an autographed copy of her book as published in England. She said that she is writing for television at present and working on another book. Another individual who pressed forward with his services was Mr. H. Richard P. Cattrall, Flat 243, Park West, London, W2.

SECRET

Lyman B. Kirkpatrick
Inspector General

cc: Director of Security
Colonel Grogan